GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1513
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN CONGO
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is taking part in its second peace keeping operation in this troubled African Republic of Congo after a gap of 33 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of armed forces personnel along with equipment being deputed Congo and their role at Congo; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for their safety and security?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir. India is participating in the second peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(b) India has agreed to deploy an Indian Air Force Aviation Unit and an Indian Army Rifle Company, to the present UN Mission in Congo, called MONUC.

(c) The Indian contingent comprises 242 personnel of the IAF with nine helicopters and a Rifle Company of ninety personnel.The role of the Indian contingent will include cargo transport, troop movement, medical transport, armed escort, search and rescue missions and surveillance flights etc.

(d) An evaluation of the risk factors involved has been carried out. Ground assessment of the situation has been done by a team of IAF officers. Both the IAF and Army detachments are suitably equiped and trained for all contingencies.The Rifle Company is tasked for providing the security to the Aviation Unit.